

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Developing a Unified Inter-carrier)	CC Docket No. 01-92
Compensation Regime)	
)	
)	
)	

**INITIAL COMMENTS OF THE
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

The Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) files the following comments with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) regarding the Commission's above captioned proceeding on inter-carrier compensation.

The MPSC endorses the process utilized in the development of the proposal submitted on May 18, 2005 by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Task Force on Inter-carrier Compensation. The MPSC has participated actively in the NARUC Task Force, and the time, resources and effort put forth that resulted in the Task Force proposal has been tremendous. The MPSC commends the Task Force for developing a proposal that has required consideration and compromise. The MPSC looks forward to continued participation in the Task Force, and

supports continued utilization of the Task Force to establish further principles regarding intercarrier compensation.

The MPSC does not take a position on the specific substantive elements of the NARUC Task Force's plan, and does not comment at this juncture on the substance of other plans submitted in this proceeding. The MPSC reserves the opportunity to submit comments on those plans, and on the specific elements of the NARUC Task Force plan, with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of May, 2005.

THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GREG JERGESON, Chairman
BRAD MOLNAR, Vice-Chairman
DOUG MOOD, Commissioner
ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner
THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner